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THIRSK
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1952.

J. BELL, PRINTER, THIRSK.

THIRSK RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1952.

MR. CHAIRMAN & MEMBERS,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1952.

Last year I mentioned in my Annual Report that although no case of Diphtheria was reported during the year, this happy state of affairs was not likely to continue as there was a regrettable falling off in the number of children who came to be immunised. On the 10th October in the year under review, 6 cases of Diphtheria were notified and another on the 14th of October and it looked as if the disease were to become epidemic—however, prompt isolation in hospital curtailed the outbreak and there were no further cases. Not one of the cases had been immunised. We had, too, five cases of Poliomyelitis notified—one of these was subsequently found not to be an acute Poliomyelitis. The 4 cases were all of the paralytic type.

I record my appreciation of the help given me from the Clerk, the Sanitary Inspector, the Additional Sanitary Inspector and the other members of the Council's staff and also the assistance I have received from the County Medical Officer and members of his staff, and from the Public Health Laboratory.

Public Health Staff.

Clerk	...	W. A. Wilkinson
Sanitary Inspector	...	F. Metcalfe
Additional Sanitary Inspector		R. M. Sharphouse
Medical Officer of Health (Part Time)		W. G. MacArthur

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)	...	...	71,544
Estimated residential population (Civilians)			
	(R.G.'s figures)		14,470
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	3,674
Rateable Value	...	...	£73,511
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	£296

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	
Live Births—	195	108	87	Birth Rate per
Legitimate	185	103	82	1,000 of the
Illegitimate	10	5	5	population 13.47
Still Births—	4	2	2	Rate per 1,000
Legitimate	4	2	2	of all Births
Illegitimate	—	—	—	20.57
Deaths	136	74	62	Death Rate per
				1,000 of the
				population 9.404

Deaths from Puerpural Causes — Nil

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age	—	—	—
Legitimate	...	8	5
Illegitimate	...	—	—
Deaths of Infants under 1 year—			
Legitimate	...	11	7
Illegitimate	...	—	—
Death Rate all Infants per 1,000 Live Births			56.4
Death Rate Legitimate per 1,000 legitimate live births			59.72
Death Rate Illegitimate per 1,000 illegitimate live births			Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)			
	(R.G.'s list Headings 10-14)		15
Deaths from Measles (all ages) (Heading 8)			Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) (Heading 5)			1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (all ages) (Heading 27)			3

The Death Rate of infants per 1,000 births gives a very inaccurate picture on account of a small number of births.

SECTION B.

1. Public Health Staff.
See above.

2. (a) Laboratory Work.

An excellently equipped Laboratory at the Friarage Hospital, Northallerton, provides the area with a quick and willing service. The same is true of the York County Hospital, which is less used on account of being further away.

- (b) Ambulance Facilities.

The provision of these is no longer the duty of the Local Authority.

- (c) Nursing in the home.

Provision of nursing in the home and of home help is under the control of the County Medical Officer.

Sections C, D and E are dealt with by the Sanitary Inspector in this Report.

I would, however, mention here that there were no cases of Food Poisoning notified during the year.

SECTION F.

Prevalence of, and control over Infectious Diseases.

Very few cases of Infectious Disease occurred during the year, in all 28, as follows :

Diphtheria. 7 cases were notified as mentioned in the introductory part of my report.

Scarlet Fever. 5 cases were notified, 4 of which were treated at home. Home treatment is advisable, except under exceptionable circumstances, to relieve the shortage of hospital beds.

Measles. 16 cases were notified.

Whooping Cough. No case was reported. One cause of death is notified as Whooping Cough; a case notified in the preceding year.

Pneumonia. No case notified.

Acute Poliomyelitis. 4 cases notified and confirmed.
1 case not confirmed.

Notifiable Diseases during the year.

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Total Cases</i>	<i>Cases admitted to Hospital</i>	<i>Total Deaths</i>
Scarlet Fever	5	1	Nil
Measles	16	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough	Nil	Nil	1
Puerperal Pyrena	Nil	Nil	Nil

<i>Age</i>	<i>Scarlet Fever</i>	<i>Measles</i>	<i>Diphtheria</i>	<i>Poliomyelitis</i>
1-2	-	3	-	-
2-3	-	-	-	-
3-4	1	5	1	-
4-5	-	2	-	1
5-10	1	5	5	1
10-15	2	1	-	1
15-25	1	-	-	1
25-45	-	-	1	-
45-65	-	-	-	-
65 & over	-	-	-	-
	5	16	7	4

3. Cancer. No action taken.

4. (a) Prevention of Blindness. No action taken.
 (b) Tuberculocis.

<i>Age Period</i>	<i>New Cases</i>				<i>Deaths</i>			
	<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory</i>		<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory</i>	
	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>
5-6	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
15-20	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-45	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
45-65	2	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
	5	2	1	-	-	1	1	-

Causes of Death in Thirsk Rural District in 1952.

<i>Causes of Death.</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
1. Tuberculosic Respiratory	-	1
2. Tuberculosic (other)	1	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	1
10. Malignant Neoplasm (stomach)	1	3
11. Malignant Neoplasm (Lung Bronchus)	2	-
12. Malignant Neoplasm (Breast)	-	1
14. Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	7	1
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	-
16. Diabetes	1	-
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	3	9
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	12	7
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease	-	1
20. Other Heart Disease	20	22
21. Other Circulatory Disease	4	1
23. Pneumonia	5	2
24. Bronchitis	1	-
27. Gastritis, Enteritis & Diarrhoea	3	-
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-
31. Congenital Malformations	1	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	6	9
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	-	1
34. All other accidents	3	2
35. Suicide	2	1
	74	62

I am, Mr. Chairman and Members,

Your obedient Servant,

W. G. MacArthur,

Medical Officer of Health.

THIRSK RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor for the year 1952.

MR. CHAIRMAN & MEMBERS,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1952.

Mr. Sharphouse has assisted in the compilation of same, with particular reference to housing matters.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supplies.

Public Water Supplies	6
Private Water Supplies	6

WATER SUPPLIES PROVIDED BY THE COUNCIL.

1. Borehole in the Parish of Pickhill supplying Ainderby Quernhow, Holme, Sinderby and Pickhill.
2. Borehole in the Parish of Kirby Hill supplying Kirby Hill, Langthorpe, Milby, Humberton, Ellenthorpe, Thornton Bridge.
3. Springs in the Parish of Sutton supplying Sutton only.
4. Springs in the Parish of Kilburn supplying both High and Low Kilburn.
5. Springs in the Parish of Knayton supplying Knayton only.

THE THIRSK DISTRICT WATER COMPANY supply the following Parishes direct from their mains, namely :—

Boltby, Carlton Miniott, Catton, Felixkirk, Kepwick, Kirby Wiske, Kirby Knowle, Maunby, Newby Wiske, Newsham, North Kilvington, Norton-le-Clay, Sandhutton, South Otterington, Sowerby, South Kilvington, Skipton Bridge, Thirsk, Thornbrough, Thornton-le-Moor, Thornton-le-Street.

PRIVATE PIPED SUPPLIES.

Cowesby (Springs) ; Hood Grange (Springs) ; Howe (Borehole) ; Thirlby (Springs) ; Upsall (Springs) ; Birdforth (Wells).

SUTTON WATER SUPPLY.

The supply from Hood Hill springs became insufficient during the year to serve 5 parishes and it was therefore arranged to purchase water in bulk from the Thirsk District Water Company to supply Bagby, Balk, Hutton Sessay and Thirkleby Parishes, leaving the Hood Hill springs to serve Sutton only.

HOOD GRANGE PRIVATE SUPPLY.

This concerns one house only at present, the spring supply is unsatisfactory and efforts are being made by the Church Commissioners (owners) to improve same.

THIRLBY PRIVATE SUPPLY.

This supply is insufficient and efforts are being made by the Council to obtain an alternate supply sufficient to meet all demands.

WATER PURCHASED IN BULK by the Council from the Thirsk District Water Company and supplied to the following Parishes through the Council's mains:—

Bagby, Balk, Dalton, Eldmire, Fawdington, Sessay, Topcliffe, Hutton Sessay, Thirkleby.

Bacteriological Examination of Public Supplies.

Name of Supply	Derived from	Samples taken	Suspicious	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory
Sutton Springs		4	—	—	4
Kirby Hill Bore		2	—	—	2
Knayton Springs		1	—	—	1
Kilburn Springs		3	2	—	1
Pickhill Bore		1	—	—	1

Particulars of Parishes as to supply of Water from Public Water Mains.

Parish	Pop'n	No. of dwelling houses	No. of Population supplied from Mains	Stand Pipes	Remarks
Ainderby					
Quernhow	79	21			
* Bagby	216	72	162	36	
* Balk	69	14	55		
* Boltby	179	52	40		

Cowesby	65	23			Private supply
*Carlton Min.	621	170	548	60	
*Catton	86	36			
*Dalton	259	109	156	54	
Ellenthorpe	61	12			
*Eldmire	54	10	45		
*Fawdington	24	4	24		
*Felixkirk	102	21	70		
Holme	42	16	33	9	
Hood Grange	10	1			Private supply
Howe	40	12			Private supply
*Hutton Sessay	95	23	92		
Humberton	69	17			
*Kepwick	146	35	140		
Kilburn	294	82	171	44	
*Kirby Wiske	188	47	160	24	
Knayton	280	83	192	9	
Kirby Hill	155	42	85	50	
*Kirby Knowle	110	24	110		
Langthorpe	341	122	304	24	
*Maunby	169	44	112		
Milby	71	24	39		
*Newby Wiske	167	49	96	24	
*Newsham	189	39	35	25	
*N. Kilvington	81	10	24		
*Norton-le-Clay	51	27			
Pickhill	294	80	171	42	
*Sandhutton	267	66	176	60	
*Sessay	266	69	244	20	
Sinderby	98	33	36	12	
*S. Otterington	289	100	162	54	
Sowerby	2445	826	2205	214	
*S. Kilvington	253	70	180		
*Skipton Bridge	93	42			
Sutton	243	87	174	30	
Thirkleby	248	67	196		
Thirlby	102	24	50		Private supply
*Thirsk	2442	836	1525	575	
Thornbrough	16	3	2		
Thornton Bri.	73	12			
Thornton-					
le-Moor	248	98	219	24	
*Thornton-					
le-Street	132	34	76		
Topcliffe	530	127	448	32	
Upsall	104	25			Private supply

* Parishes supplied direct by the Thirsk District Water Co.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The works for sewers and sewage disposal in Thirsk and Sowerby were still in abeyance although sanctioned and tenders obtained.

In view of the gross pollution to the Codbeck and the proximity of the Infants School thereto, the Council pressed for an early commencement and permission was finally obtained to commence the works early in 1953.

Sewage disposal works are required generally over the whole of the area to avoid pollution to ditches and water-courses and for compliance with the Rivers (Prevention of Pollution) Act, 1951.

During the year the following new work was carried out :—

- (1) Extension of a sewer in Sowerby to serve a new housing estate.
- (2) The ex-W.D. sewage works at Dalton and Skipton Bridge were acquired.

Public Cleansing.

The Council maintain an efficient staff and vehicles for carrying out the scavenging services over the whole area.

Dustbins and pail closets are emptied weekly; privy middens and fixed ash-pits monthly, excepting those on outlying farms etc., which are cleared on request or as vehicles are available.

Dustbins are also cleared once weekly from the Topcliffe Aerodrome and also from parts of the Dishforth aerodrome within the Council's area.

Many of the country villages contain privy middens the contents of which have frequently to be barrowed out to the roadway, some with long hauls so adding considerably to the cost of refuse removal.

Closet pails in Thirsk and Sowerby, totalling about 500 are emptied on one day each week using our Dennis Cesspool Emptier with night soil attachment. This vehicle is also used for the emptying of pails in some of the villages where the number of pails to be emptied justify the economical use of same, otherwise the dustbins and pails

are collected together to save cost in men's time and transport.

The collected refuse is tipped in disused quarries. The contents of pail closets are however, so far as conditions permit, spread on to agricultural land for manurial purposes.

The emptying of Cesspools and other tanks is also undertaken under Public Cleansing.

Waste paper is collected from the shops and offices in Thirsk and Sowerby and baled for dispatch to the Mills. Much of this collected material has however to be burned as it would be uneconomical to sort.

The Market Place is swept after the weekly Monday Market, also the Market Place is cleaned up each Sunday morning.

Scavenging Data.

Number of privy middens	1,041
Number of pail closets	1,006
Number of dustbins	2,995
Mileage	46,046

Public Conveniences.

The Council maintain underground public conveniences for both sexes. These are situated in the Market Place and are kept open day and night.

These conveniences have been in use some considerable time and are extensively used by the many bus parties and other road users passing through the town. More extensive premises are required with facilities for handwashing, and if obtained, it would be advantageous to employ full time caretakers to keep the conveniences in hygienic condition and also to prevent damage to the fittings etc.

Salvage.

The Council has a contract with the Thames Board Mills for sale of baled waste paper, and although the price of this commodity has considerably fallen so making it an uneconomical proposition in a rural area to make special collections, we have continued to bale clean waste paper collected from shops, offices etc.

The total weight dispatched to the Mills during the year was approx. 26 tons, realising a sum of £293.

It is considered expedient to dispose of it to the Mills, if not always economic, rather than allow the paper to cause nuisance on the tips, through fire or otherwise.

Rodent Control.

Mr. Fox, your rodent operator, carried out the following work during the year under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

Inspections	1,105
Re-visits	529
Rat Infestations found	96
Mice Infestations destroyed	4

A total weight of 188 lbs. 3 ozs. of poison bait was laid. The poisons used during the year were Zinc Phosphide, Red Squill, Antu, Warfarin.

As in previous years, no claim was made against the Council of any animal or poultry being poisoned, showing that every precaution had been taken in laying the poison bait.

The sewers in Thirsk and Sowerby were treated during the year and no influx was observed. Sewer outfalls and the river banks were frequently inspected and immediate steps taken to remedy any infestations found.

Refuse tips are regularly inspected and treated so as to prevent nuisance to adjacent farms and corn stacks.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Public Health ...	Refuse Collection and Disposal	95
	Drainage	131
	Sewage	144
	Water	33
	Public Conveniences	26
	Hotel & other conveniences	25
	Shops	40
	Nuisances	88
	Keeping of Animals	11
	Dirty Houses	4
	Dangerous Buildings	2

	Caravans	18
	Infectious Diseases	9
	Welfare	10
	Fumigations & disinfestations	14
	Building Byelaws	177
	Building Licences	62
Food & Drugs Acts	Unsound Food	27
	Clean Food Byelaws	44
	Catering Licences	2
	Butchers Shops, Bakehouses & other food preparing premises	17
Shops Act	Inspections	40
Factories Act	Inspections	24
Housing	General Housing	68
	Building Sites	44
	Temporary Sites	14
	Council Houses Maintenance	615
	Council Houses — Applications	106
General Re-		
inspections	Public Health and Housing	91
Number of houses disinfected		3
Number of houses treated for vermin		8
Number of sewers cleansed or repaired		107
Number of drains cleansed or repaired		73
Number of drains smoke tested		51
Number of tanks cleaned out		275
NOTICES ETC.		
Informal Notices to Owners or Occupiers		102
Statutory Notices (Water Supplies)		5
Number of Letters		693
SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS TO OLD PROPERTY.		
Number of fixed baths provided		22
Number of water closets provided		41
Number of Privy Middens abolished		26
Number of Pail Closets abolished		5
Number of Hotels improved toilet accommodation		2

TENTS VANS AND SHEDS.—There is no exeptional increase of these dwellings. Those in the area are of the trailer caravan type and are used chiefly for the summer months only.

PETROLEUM REGULATIONS.

Number of Licences Issued — Storage of Petrol	61
Slaughterman's Licences Issued	12

Food.

MILK.—The Council now only control those persons who distribute milk by retail sale and who are not producers of milk. Four persons are registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949 and include three for the sale of designated milk. The milk is retailed in bottles.

MEAT.—The Northallerton Abattoir covers this area on the supply of meat, which is conveyed by motor lorry for distribution to the butchers.

FRIED FISH & CHIP PREMISES.—There are 6 in Thirsk, 1 in Sowerby and 1 at Topcliffe, also a mobile van is operated from the premises at Topcliffe.

ICE CREAM PREMISES.—Number on Register, 21. In only 1 case is ice cream manufactured on registered premises, all other registrations are for the sale of Ice Cream in pre-packed containers.

CLEAN FOOD BYELAWS.—No formal action had to be taken under these byelaws.

UN SOUND FOOD.—27 Certificates of condemnation were issued during the year, chiefly in respect of tinned goods unfit for food.

Housing.

Control of Civil Building.

PRIVATE ENTERPRISE BUILDING.—25 Licences were issued during the year but only 1 house was completed by the end of December, 1952.

REPAIRS & CONVERSIONS (other than New Houses) — 29 Licences were issued by the Council for works carried out to existing houses and totalled an expenditure of £9,911.

Council House Building Programme.

At the beginning of the year work was in progress on sites in Thirsk (Sutton Road No. 2 Site) and in Sowerby (Croft Heads Site). Both contracts were completed during the year and provided the following houses—:

Sowerby	10 — 3 bedroomed houses.
	1 — 4 bedroomed house
Thirsk	4 — 2 bedroomed houses.
	14 — 3 bedroomed houses.
	3 — 4 bedroomed houses.
	4 — Aged Persons houses.

All these houses are of 'traditional' construction — two storey brick with pantile roofs in keeping with local architectural character. The Aged Persons houses on the Sutton Road site were, however, something of an innovation for this district. To meet the need for a second bedroom for use during illness or other emergency, the roof space was adapted for the purpose, being lighted by dormer windows on the front elevation. Whilst these dwellings were greatly appreciated by the tenants, their cost prohibited further building of this type and subsequent designs of Aged Persons dwellings provided for extra sleeping space in an annex to the living room.

A contract for the provision of a further 17 houses to complete the Sowerby (Croft Heads) Site was accepted and the work proceeded without delay, resulting in an additional 6 houses ready for occupation by the year end; two 2-bedroomed, two 3-bedroomed, and two 4-bedroomed.

Steps were also taken by the Council to meet the needs of the villages, and building was commenced on sites in Topcliffe (6 houses), Sessay (4 houses) and Pickhill (6 houses). The total number of dwellings completed during the year was 42, bringing the number of houses owned by this Council, at the year end to 313.

The estimated need for houses at the beginning of the year was 263; this allowed for the replacement of 97 temporary converted hut dwellings; providing homes for 155 persons living in rooms and rehousing 11 overcrowding cases.

Action under the Housing Acts.

Housing Act, 1936.

Owing to the continued shortage of houses the Council was unable to carry out 'Slum Clearance' or large scale housing improvement, and action was confined to cases of individual unfit houses. Such action being of a non-statutory nature with the exception of two houses at Carlton Miniott which were dealt with under section 11 and subsequently became the subject of Demolition Orders. The tenants were still in occupation at the year end, as rehousing had not been practicable.

Housing Act, 1949.

Three application for Improvement Grants were received and approved during the year. Two of these applications being brought within the scope of the Act by the raising of the maximum permitted expense to £800.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Members,

Yours obediently,

F. METCALFE,

Chief Sanitary Inspector
and Surveyor.



